

Caldwell (Chas.)

Romance, no fiction.

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Surgeon General's Office  
427994  
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# ROMANCE, NO FICTION.

## A TRUE STORY.

BY CHARLES CALDWELL, M. D.

Fellow Citizens—I have often held intercourse with you, on the affairs of other persons *individually*, of special associations of other individuals, and also, though less frequently, on those of the public at large; but never, until now, exclusively on my own affairs. The present is my first act of that description. Nor would I trouble you with it now, were I not impelled to do so, by a sense of duty to you, as well as to myself. Let me then earnestly but respectfully solicit your attention to a plain narrative of a few things I have seen, done, meditated, and borne, within the last 12 years, during which I have been a resident of the city, whose community you constitute.

That you may feel therefore some affinity with it, and be on that account inclined to treat it with the more indulgence, allow me to tell you, at this early period of it, that the narrative I am about to lay before you, is to be *A Genuine Tale of Louisville*, in all its essential elements, comprising its origin, matter, agents, and locality; and that it will contain a fragment of my own autobiography, which is also, at present, a Louisville subject. And however unethereal and commonplace it may be, *as a whole*, it is intended to exhibit an account of *one event*, which, rescuing the reader from whatever of morphean monotony and dullness may otherwise characterize it, will, I trust, give somewhat of life and interest to it, and just cause of astonishment and reflection to you.

It will interest you, however, not because of any of its extraneous or incidental connexions or relations; but because of its own inherent and unaccountable strangeness and singularity—because it is believed to be perfectly *unique*—and therefore is essentially fitted to gratify curiosity, as is the sight of an amorphous, non-descript animal, which the beholder has never previously seen, and has no reason to believe will ever again present itself to him.

Let me beg you, in a special manner, not to imagine that I consider any portion of the interest, singularity or attractiveness of the event in question to arise from its being a scrap of my own history. Be fully assured that I do not—whatever of interest and attractiveness it possesses belongs to its own *nature*, in the abstract, independently of person, time, and place. If it be not, on this ground, worthy of your attention and consideration, it is not worthy of them at all.

The singularity of the event referred to, whatever may be its amount, is composed principally of the *cause* of my separation from the Medical Department of the University of Louisville, the *manner* of that separation, and the *individual* and his *character*, by whose agency it was chiefly effected. Of these elements of the event, each being in itself extraordinary and singular, they cannot fall, when united, to form, of their kind, an aggregate *nonparcille*. But to come more immediately to my purpose.

I have been given to understand it, Fellow Citizens, to be the belief of many, perhaps of nearly all of you, who have ever paid any attention to the subject, that about nine months ago, I voluntarily resigned my professorship in the medical school of this city. If such be your belief it is erroneous. I did not resign. I was forcibly removed, by the Board of Trustees. And the ground, manner, and general character of my removal constitute, I say, the event I have denominated *extraordinary and unique*—a deed, in its principles (if indeed it had any) altogether new, and in its being, unexampled in the acts, and unheard of in the history or legends of medical institutions.

Is any one inclined to ask me, why I give publicity to the cause and manner of my separation from the Medical School, at this period, instead of having done so, immediately after its occurrence? That my ground of action in the case may be fully understood, I shall, by way of episode, reply to the question as if it were proposed.

My silence on the subject of my removal, when the deed was recent, was owing chiefly to the following causes. 1st. My reluctance to engage in a public exposition of any of my own personal affairs. 2nd. My belief that the cause and mode of my removal would reach the public through some other channel. 3rd. My insuppressible excitement and deep indignation on the subject produced in me an unwillingness to trust my pen, on the occasion, lest it might *instinctively*, and *without my consciousness*, introduce into the narrative of my injuries and wrongs, some forms of expression *improper to their emanation from me*, however just might be their application to the *offending objects of them*. 4th. Not long after my removal from my Chair I left home, spent some time in a neighboring State intensely engaged in a fresh and unpro-



ing enterprise, and, as far as possible, threw from my mind the odious remembrance of the outrage I had sustained.

Such were my leading reasons for not having told this "Tale" six or eight months ago. And the following are my principle ones for telling it at present.

1st. I have been requested to tell it.—2nd. I have not, until very lately, had any just conception of the extent of the error in relation to the subject of it, which actually exists—an extent which I verily believe never would have existed, had not pains been taken, not merely to smother the truth respecting it, by *silence and secrecy*; but by the *artful propagation of insidious falsehood*.—In plainer and more explicit terms; the belief of my voluntary resignation of my chair would never have attained its present extent, had not some of those who had participated in the proceedings against me, (alarmed at the consequences of the deed committed, should it be immediately known) taken measures to have that belief widely, but furtively propagated through the community.

That certain gentlemen were seriously agitated, at the time, by an apprehension that I would divulge, through the press, the transaction of my dismissal from my Chair, I have reason to know. And the cause of their uneasiness was, "the instinctive dread which few transgressors escape, that they would be, in some way disagreeably affected by the disclosure.

And I further know, that when the plot of my dismissal was in progress, certain members of the Board of Trustees, as well as of the Medical Faculty, were exceedingly anxious that I should resign my professorship. This I know, because they themselves assured me of the fact—and had even the assurance to *urge* me to the measure—or at least to make, to that effect, an unbecoming overture, which I sternly and scornfully repelled.

Urge me to resign my chair! as if incompetent to the discharge of the duties of it, when they themselves knew, and when I was besides in possession of abundant testimony from the highest and soundest authority (as will be presently made appear) that I was then as competent to teach medical philosophy, as I had been in 1837, when, by official invitation, I laid the foundation of the Medical Institute, and caused my colleagues to be introduced into it as Professors.

True; the members of the Board of Trustees, and of the medical Faculty, who advised me to resign, professed to do so, *as friends*, to prevent my reputation from suffering by a dismissal. To that insinuation I disdained to listen. And such was my reply to my officious advisers. I told them, in a tone of positiveness and hauteur, that I would not resign—that I did not, and could not receive their advice, as an act of friendship, calculated to *benefit* me. On the contrary, that, whatever might be their design in its bestowal, it was of a nature to injure and degrade me, should I comply with it.—That it urged me to do what was as contrary to my *judgment* and my nature, as opposites are to each other.—That to resign would be *cowardice* in me. And that nothing but legal force or death should induce me, through the dread of a loss of reputation, *tamely and spiritlessly* to retreat from between my family and mischief; and allow them to receive the blow—from whatever quarter it might come.

To close the interview, I haughtily added, that

my reputation was in no danger—because, by nought they could do, had the Board of Trustees the power to injure it—and that, should they complete the transaction they had commenced, by my dismissal from the school, they would, in the estimation of upright and intelligent men, *blight their own reputation*, instead of *mine*. And I finally added, that, were the reputation I had been constructing and consolidating, for half a century, so easily wind-shaken, or overthrown—no matter how soon the storm should assail it, and the catastrophe be produced. And, with expressions to this effect, in substance and tone, the conference ended.—But, without further preface, save a few explanatory clauses, let me again solicit your attention to my narrative.

I am now about to enter on a portion of my story, which, though indispensably necessary, is unpleasant to me in the extreme. In the details to be developed, I shall be compelled to speak of myself in terms that may appear exceptionable, on account of their resemblance of self-applause. But in such terms I must speak, as the reader will perceive, or surrender the ground which I am determined to maintain; because a sense of duty enjoins on me its maintenance.

Between myself and the mixed body of men; consisting of Trustees, *accusers*, and *informers*, who removed me from my chair, *without* a trial, a serious issue is pending, and to that issue I am now about to plead; and as far as my powers and means may enable me, to scrutinize it with severity.

The issue is to the following effect. When, in its sovereign pleasure, the academical Court dismissed me from the chair, I was either deeply in fault, as a medical teacher, or my dismissal was a flagrantly iniquitous act. From these alternatives there is no retreat. One or the other must be true. Either I was an incompetent instructor; or the Court was a deeply unrighteous and condemnable body.

The latter of these it is my settled purpose to endeavor to prove. And that purpose I believe myself able to effect. In the attempt therefore, while speaking condemnatorily of the proceeding of the Court, I shall employ, of course, terms of justification and defence of myself. And, by foes and cavers, the admissible attempt, merely to justify and defend, may, through artifice and intrigue, be construed into an act of self-applause. But, whatever may be the result of the contest, the motto under which I purpose to contend, shall be "*PREVALEAT VERUM. RUAT CÆLUM.*" Nor, from the spirit and intent of that motto shall aught on earth induce me to swerve.

In the spring of 1837, I removed from Lexington to this city, by an express invitation from the Board of Managers, to lay the foundation of the Medical Institute, and aid in the up-rearing and establishment of it—and to act as premier in the responsible transaction. The work I performed with industry, fidelity, and all possible expedition; and, as I have good cause to believe, with as much satisfaction to all who felt a true interest in its success and prosperity, as can be reasonably expected in an enterprise of the kind.

In the Faculty of the Institution I was appointed to a chair, the labors of which, toward the consolidation and completion of the temple of professional science already erected, I resolved to perform, with all the assiduity, energy, and effect, of which I was capable. And from the purport of that resolution I never departed. The enterprise moreover I meant to be the last of any moment, in which I should ever engage. Nor



was it my design to retire from the chair I held in the school, as long as the income of it might be necessary to the subsistence of my family, and I competent to the discharge of the duties it enjoined. Nor do those already stated amount to all the services to the institution I endeavored to perform.

In promotion of its various interests, which were numerous and diversified, and to bestow on it, as far as practicable, distinction and celebrity, I availed myself of every opportunity I could secure or create. In furtherance of these purposes, I charged myself with sundry extra duties, and extra outlays, in which none of my colleagues in any degree participated. Did the school become the object of obloquy, misrepresentation, or, of any other form of hostile attack? I was the foremost of the members of the establishment to expose myself in its defence. And, in return for this, to annoy, and, if practicable, injure me, I was selected as the principal aim of the poisoned missiles, which our enemies employed; while my harmless and unharmed colleagues lay secure behind the defense of their own prudent dislike and avoidance of strife and danger. But amidst their freedom from battle and its effects, none of them, save one whom I shall not name, (because his dissimilarity to his colleagues sufficiently designates him) neglected to labor assiduously in the more peaceful, lucrative vocations of their chairs. And the School grew in its classes, and flourished abundantly in usefulness and celebrity.

Under this head I shall only add, in corroboration of a few preceding remarks, that my frequent, and at times, warm contests, in behalf of the institution, with those who were hostile to it, produced the attachment to me of the appellations of the "Grand Lama" and the "Hot Spur" of the school; and, in contrast with my colleagues, that of "Gulliver among the Lilliputians,"—and other sobriquets, corresponding to the different fancies of different denominators. And though such titles, when bestowed by enemies, are never intended as symbols of repute; yet has it been suggested to me, that their application to me, in the case referred to, excited the envy and jealousy of certain individuals, because it was regarded as a mark of distinction, above what they themselves had received.

Under these and other favoring circumstances, and manifestations, I reposed at ease, and in fancied security, in my chair, sedulously performing, to the best of my ability, its multifarious duties, and, as I had reason then to believe, and yet believe to the entire satisfaction of every one connected with the school, and friendly to its interests. And, as I had never intentionally, or knowingly given cause of offence to a single member of either the Board of Trustees, or of the Faculty of medicine, I dreamt not of the existence of even a willingness, much less a wish, in any quarter (the council chambers of the avowed enemies of the school excepted) to remove me from my chair. On the contrary, so confident was I of having performed, in all respects, the part of a faithful and not inefficient officer, that I verily believed in the readiness and even zeal of every member of either body (the Faculty, or the Trustees) to interpose determined prevention of an act so unjust and injurious to me—no matter by whom, or on what ground, it might be meditated or attempted. But, as in such cases, unsuspecting men too often are, to their disappointment and detriment, if not to their ruin, I was mistaken.

From five to seven years ago (for I have kept no exact register of the time) I was informed by a few friends, in succession, that Lunsford P. Vandell, M. D. of Tennessee (whom it is well known I had rescued from obscurity, and elevated to the chair he then held, and, by my patronage and uninterrupted favors, extending through nearly an average life time, had contributed to sustain him in it)—I was told that that being (*in the guise of a man*) was plotting against me, to remove me from my chair, and occupy it himself!

The information, thus communicated, involved a guiltiness so enormous in amount, and detestable in kind, that it was impossible for me to believe it. The reason of my disbelief of it may be briefly assigned. I could figure to myself no degree of human depravity sufficiently deep, and irredeemably damning, to lead to its perpetration. I therefore virtually resented the charge, and threw it from me as an odious slander on an innocent man, who, hundreds of times, both publicly and privately, had solemnly avowed himself my devoted and unalienable friend—and pronounced it *false*. Nor, though my suspicions on the subject began, not long afterward, to be awakened, did I deem it necessary to take any action, or even precaution, in relation to it, until early in the year 1847.

Finding then, that the plot to destroy me was ripening with a speed not altogether unalarming, (like a *native reed* from Acheron, under the genial influence of its earth-born procurer and planter, and a few of his abettors,) I considered it my duty to provide for the safety of my family and myself against the ingratitude and treachery, coupled with the machinations, of the MODERN ISCAHOTH!

I therefore held immediately private interviews with the President and as many members of the Board of Trustees as amounted to a majority, and made with them the following compact—but unfortunately did not commit it to paper—because, with such men, I did not deem it necessary.

I stated to them, that, at a date considerably anterior, I had resolved to retire from public life, two, or at farthest, three, years from the date of the interview we were then holding—a space that would extend to the month of March, 1850. And that, at that period, or sooner, if I could, I would certainly resign my chair, for the purpose of devoting, subsequently, the whole of my time to the composition of a work (designed to be posthumous) in which I was engaged.

In opposition to my proposal, thus submitted, and distinctly understood, no murmur being uttered, nor the shadow of an objection to it made, I considered the difficulty adjusted and put to rest, and that the tenure of my chair, until March, 1850, was secure. The reason is plain. Two or three years, subsequently to March, 1847, extend to March, 1850, as certainly as they do to March, 1849. And, according to my compact with the trustees, it was optional with me to resign my professorship at either term—that of March, 1849 or of March, 1850. I defy the ingenuity and cavils of the whole human race to put, in consistency with uprightness and truth, any other construction on the phraseology of the compact. But such is not the construction that suited the notion of the board of trustees—for what reason, God and themselves only know. And no reason on the subject has yet been rendered by them. Nor do I believe that they will render one—because they possess



none, which they themselves deem valid—or even specious.

They did not disingenuously deny that the terms and conditions I have here stated were the terms and conditions of the compact; nor did they evasively pretend to have forgotten them. On the contrary, they expressly acknowledged the correctness of my account of the whole transaction, as I have here detailed it. But they could not be induced to admit, that the conversational interview I had held with them amounted to a *bona fide* and binding compact—but to a mere *parlance* negotiation, which might or might not be deemed obligatory, according to circumstances.

"Very true," said I, "but what *are* the 'circumstances,' according to which one party to a negotiation usually contends that a verbal contract *may*, at option, be complied with or rejected?"

The answer is easy. They constitute precisely the relative condition which existed at the time, between the board and myself. The Trustees were numerous and I was alone; they were the framers of the laws (the by-laws of the University) by which alone my cause could be decided. And they were to be, on my trial, the accusers, informers, pleaders, judges and jurors, by whose fiat I was to be acquitted or condemned. Hence, they were, in all respects, the stronger and I the weaker party.

Such was the array of "circumstances," under the influence of which my compact with the Board of Trustees was, at their option, to be admitted or repudiated. And they, as rulers, selected the same alternative which arbitrary rulers whether of Schools, States, or Empires rarely fail to select. They interpreted the circumstances, in their own favor; and, like other officers, fond of influence, and free from responsibility, they felt and appreciated power, and not only forgot right, but arbitrarily subverted it—and that is the most rational comment their conduct admits. The final remarks, respecting the compact, submitted by me then to the Board, were, in substance, tantamount to those which I shall now respectfully submit to the public.

Let the compact I observed, be judged of, in the High Court of Heaven, or in any court on earth, where justice and equity prevail, and it will be held and pronounced as valid, as if, when negotiated, it had been committed to paper, signed, sealed, witnessed and formally recorded. And, what I then said, and have now repeated, the following statement will irreversibly ratify, in the sight of God, and of every enlightened and fair-minded reader.

Finding the Board of Trustees thus hopelessly stubborn in their resolution, and inflexible in their course, I determined, in my contest with them, to intrench myself on ground, where nothing but arbitrary and tyrannical force could reach me. And I further determined, that, at some expedient time, I would submit our contest to the judgment of the community.

Hitherto, I have refrained from carrying my determination into effect. But, possessing no valid cause of longer concealment, I now disclose the measure I resorted to, which was as follows: I communicated to the Board my positive resolution not to resign my professorship, except on one of the two following provisos:

1st. That my resignation should not take effect until a specified day, in March, 1850. Or, in case of that measure being unacceptable;

2nd. That I should be admitted to a public trial, before a tribunal composed of accusers and

examiners, and a body of competent and unprejudiced judges; and, in case of failure to acquit myself, on any point or points, pertaining to the Institutes of Medicine, or Medical jurisprudence (the subjects, on which it was my province to deliver instruction) as fully and ably, as could the most enlightened and popular of my colleagues, on any of the subjects of his professorship—then would I forthwith resign my chair, and no further complain—or in any way trouble them.

Both of these proposals the Board rejected—an utterly unrighteous and lawless act, which alone furnished testimony abundantly conclusive of their determination to eject me from my chair, regardless of the subsequent effects on medical science, the school, my family, or myself.

The refusal to me, by the Board, of the trial I called for, I have pronounced "unrighteous and lawless." And, to heighten the tone and strengthen the whole character of my allegation on the subject, I unhesitatingly add, that nothing more "unrighteous and lawless," in principle, presents itself to an indignant world, in the whole desolating train of barbarities, inflicted by Austria, on the people of Hungary. I say "in principle" not in atrocity. My reason for saying so is irresistible. It was the denial of a right, recognized and granted, in every country, where a single trace of freedom exists. And that swells and aggravates, in a manifold degree, its denial in our own country, the only abode of genuine freedom—where even the vagabond and the felon find, in a trial, by enlightened and civilized freemen, a secure asylum from tyranny and wrong. Yet, to one, who during a protracted lifetime, had, faithfully and zealously, devoted all his powers to the duties of one of the most beneficent and useful of professions, was the highest privilege of that asylum denied, by a body of men, who were virtually indebted to him, for the very power they employed to his oppression and injury. For, had not I established the Medical Institute, from which arose the University of Louisville, never, of course, would the body of men referred to have been invested with the government of the Medical Department, or of any other Department of that institution.

Through honors and privileges therefore virtually conferred on them, by myself, have they, for the gratification of some propensity, sinister in itself, and apart from either sound principle, necessity, or any imaginable form of usefulness, deeply and permanently wronged and injured me. In truth, whatever may be their relations to the other Professors of the University, and whatever may be their feelings toward me, on account of the sentiments I am about to express; academically speaking, they are the creatures of my influence—and their unfeeling and unnatural conduct compels me to add, and justifies me, in doing so, that they are a perverse and rebellious offspring turned tyrants and marauders against their progenitor.

But, in refusing to institute the trial, requested of them in the spirit of a challenge, the Board acted with policy—if not uprightness. They had in view the attainment of a favorite object. And they well knew that, should the trial take place, they would be frustrated in that view, by the overthrow and disgrace of my prosecutors and examiners—and that their own cup of mortification would be wormwood.

However boastful and self-sufficient cavers and condemners may pronounce the following



assertion, I notwithstanding make it fearlessly and proudly, that, in such a trial, no physician in the United States, would hazard his reputation, by becoming one of my examiners—I having the privilege to reciprocate the process by an examination of him. Nor need I reveal the cause of his reluctance—To those who know me it is no secret. To them therefore, let the curious on the subject, if any such there be, apply for information.

When I requested to be apprized of the charge or charges, preferred against me by the Board of Trustees, as the ground on which I was to be dismissed from the chair I had so long, and, as I had believed, satisfactorily occupied? The only answer returned to me was, that I was thought to be "too old." None of the gentlemen, (as, several years before, Professor Yandell had maliciously and mendaciously done) declared me disqualified for the duties of a public teacher, by the decay of my faculties either corporal or mental. They acknowledged, on the contrary that I still possessed them in abundant soundness, strength, and activity. Such at least was the promptly uttered acknowledgement of several individual members, to whom I specially addressed myself on the subject. Some of them even expressed themselves more strongly in my vindication, by asserting their belief, that I was instrumental in attracting to the school a much greater number of pupils, than any of my colleagues; and furthermore, that my name and autograph, affixed to their diplomas, were far more highly valued, by the graduates of the institution, than those of any of the other Professors. To scores moreover, if not hundreds of persons, other than Trustees, graduates had made declarations to the same effect. Nor is this all. When, to strike down the falsehoods of Dr Yandell and his co-operators, three sets of highly laudatory and strongly expressed resolutions respecting my lectures, spontaneously left with me, by our three last classes of graduates, were exhibited by me to the Trustees, several of them acknowledged to myself, that they believed them to be true.

Notwithstanding however all these testimonials in my favor, and various others to the same purport, which I could easily adduce (and not a single whisper against me, except from the slanderous tongues of Yandell and Company), the Board at length removed me from my chair, and at the same sitting, offered to my acceptance an HONORARY DEGREE!!

An "Honorary Degree" in medicine, proffered to me, by a body of men, the very existence of whose academical honors is a creation of my own!—This was indeed not even a propitiatory "sop to Cerberus"—No, it was a solemn mockery. A memorable exemplification of the poet's "world inverted,"

"Wherein the foot, designed the soil to tread,

"Or hand to toil, aspired to be the head!"

As a matter of course, the offer was promptly and haughtily rejected—the rejection being accompanied by a declaration, characterized by the same air and tone, that the Trustees had nothing, either to retain themselves, or offer to others, that, to me, could be an Honor.—That all my honors, whatever might be their amount and value; and whether, in their nature, professional, scientific, or literary, were possessions of my own creating—and that it was beyond the power of the Board, to augment, diminish, or, in any way, affect them. And I was on the verge of subjoining the sentiment just expressed—that

every academical attribute of the Board was an emanation from myself.

Nor did I fail to meet, and demolish every pretense of the Board for their causeless and heartless dismissal of me from the School.—When alleged by them therefore, that I was "too old" for the discharge of the duties of a public teacher, I stated to them, to dispel their ignorance of the history of medical schools, the cases of Hoffmann, Blumenbach, Cullen, and other celebrated teachers, who, at ages more, some of them much more, advanced than mine, died Professors in institutions, which they had had no agency in founding—but into which they had been simply elected—whereas, of that, from which I was dismissed, without a real fault alleged against me, I had been the founder—a consideration which strengthened my claim to the tenure of my chair, to a manifold extent, beyond that of a mere election into it, when already established and in a flourishing condition.

Such, fellow-citizens, is the plain and unambitious narrative I have been induced to lay before you. Introductory to it, I promised to reveal to you, in it, a fact (more correctly might I have said, an aggregate of facts,) "unprecedented and unique." And I feel no apprehension that, after having perused it, you will be likely to charge me with a breach of my promise. No I have fulfilled it already, though something is yet wanting to complete the picture. My dismissal from my chair in the Medical Department of the University of Louisville, in the manner detailed to you, is a *paragon of outrage* on justice and right. In the entire history of Medical Schools, from the first in Cos, to the last in Melchian, nothing equal, similar, or even analogous to it, is recorded.

How it is possible for a deed so irreconcilably at war with every principle of justice, equity, the christian religion, and even humanity itself, to have been the work of a body of men, in other respects so sound in character and high in standing, as are the Board of Trustees, constitutes an enigma, whose solution is referred to casuists and expounders far other than myself. In a task so repulsive, herculean, and hopeless, I shall not engage. As soon would I undertake the noisome defecation of the Augean Stables.

The greatest marvel involved in the transaction of my removal from my chair, is, not that the deed has been done, and done in so reprehensible a manner; but that it has been done by such a body of men—a body consisting, as the Board of Trustees does, of two judges, two lawyers, and I know not how many fervid and fierce professing christians. To induce such a body of men, deliberately and officially, to commit on the feeling and fortune of an individual of any description, such irremediable havoc, as the Trustees have committed on mine, they ought to be able to defend their proceeding by reasons irresistible. Yet have those gentlemen (high-standing in the community as some of them are) not a single valid reason to urge in defence of their proceeding toward me, more than had Macbeth to justify, or even palliate, his assassination of the aged and innocent Duncan, his king and guest, when, in his soliloquy, he uttered the following agonized and half-repentant confession:

"Beside, this Duncan  
Hath borne his faculties so meek, hath been  
So clear in his great office, that his virtues  
Will plead like angels, trumpet-tongued, against  
The deep damnation of his taking off."



For I can with perfect truthfulness declare, that, in the month of April, 1849, I was as free from the slightest degree of wrong-doing and wrong-intending to the medical school, the board of trustees and the faculty of medicine, as was Duncan toward Macbeth, when the latter made the above avowal; or when he again thus expresses himself respecting the former:

"He's here in double trust:  
First, as I am his kinsman and his subject,  
Strong both against the deed; then, as his host,  
Who should against his murderer shut the door,  
Not bear the knife myself."

Yet, under all these aggravations was my removal perpetrated!

I am bound, however, to acknowledge that the whole Board did not unite in the flagitious transaction. I take peculiar pleasure in recording, without their knowledge, the exemption from it of the three following gentlemen—Messrs. Pope, Everett and Field. As far as they are concerned, the administration of the school is unsoiled by it. And I have been informed, through a channel, which I am unwilling to discredit, that, had the Board, in their final vote, been equally divided, the President would have decided in favor of my retaining my chair until March, 1850. And I have been also told, (I know not whether truly,) that some of the members, who voted with the majority, have since expressed their regret for what was done.

Of Professor Vandell I have spoken in this production with deep and intense, but justly merited, censure and reprobation. A few expressions, however, in relation to him, I have not employed without *reluctance*—but I cannot say *regret*. Though I consider him in many respects, a mass of as unequalled odium and iniquity as I have ever known; yet would the emanation from *me*, of the expressions referred to, be altogether inadmissible, were it not for the correctness of their application to *him*. When I adopted them, I could not call to my mind any others that so aptly characterized him.

Things, whether corporeal or mental, deeply and thoroughly vitiated in their nature, deformed in shape, and irreconcilably offensive in color and odor, can be no more truthfully described by bland and pleasing words, than they can be accurately portrayed by a graceful and symmetrical outline, or suitably colored, and otherwise characterized by the hues of the rainbow and the fragrance of the rose. There is an inherent and natural power of descriptiveness and aptitude to represent, in words and sounds, as well as in forms, colors and smells.

Hence, I deem it less faulty in a writer to employ, under given circumstances, unattractive and even repulsive language, than to allow a gross and corrupt embodiment of perfidy, falsehood, ingratitude and treachery to roam at large, without its brand, and enact, undetected, the character of the wolf in the costume of the lamb. And when to such an incorporation is added the impiousness of hypocrisy, our language needs a new term, adequately to express the hateful product.

#### APPENDIX.

I have stated, in the course of the preceding narrative, that the three last classes of graduates of the Medical Department of the University of Louisville (the classes of 1847-48—and-49) spontaneously left with me, on their departure from the city, each of them, a document highly commendatory of my courses of lectures, to which they had listened. And none of their teachers will deny, that those were three of the

ablest and most enlightened classes, that have ever received the honors of the institution. The following is the document left by the last class. And, in matter, style, and tone, the two preceding ones are equally full, strong and decisive.

LOUISVILLE, March 6th, 1849.

"We, the undersigned, members of the graduated class of the Medical Department—University of Louisville, for session 1848 and '49, unanimously adopt the following Preamble and Resolutions:

"Whereas, we have attended the lectures of our venerable Professor of the Institutes of medicine for two sessions; and whereas, in all human probability, he will not continue many years longer to hold his place in the University, which we are proud to cherish as our Alma Mater; therefore:

"Resolved, 1st; That we feel it to be our privilege, and take great pleasure in expressing our high regard for him, as a man of profound learning, and one of the ablest advocates and most efficient teachers of the medical profession.

"Resolved, 2d; That his lectures on all the subjects, pertaining to his chair, have been able, thorough, and instructive; and that the imputation therefore, that he is superannuated, or that his lectures are, in any way, inferior to those of the other Professors, is unjust, unfounded, and false.

"Resolved, 3rd; That, in consideration of the deep interest he has always manifested in our advancement in the study of the philosophy of medicine, and his untiring efforts to promote the same, we deeply regret the prospect of his vacating his chair, which he has so long and so ably filled; and for his courteous and affable manners to us as pupils, and all the kind attentions we have received from his hands, we tender to him the grateful thanks of his affectionate pupils and humble servants.

Signed in behalf of the Class by

W. W. McCOMAS,  
J. ROEMAN,  
T. L. MADDEN."

Such is the document left with me, by a body of young gentlemen, thoroughly acquainted with the subject it involves, as testimony, to sustain me against the proceedings of another body, in an effort to wrong and injure me, by action on the same subject, of which they were thoroughly ignorant. The document therefore speaks satisfactorily and conclusively for itself, and bears a testimony, which, as the case then stood, and still stands, can be neither strengthened nor weakened, by comment or discussion. Hence to bestow it on either, would be a waste of time.

Neither are the sentiments I have here expressed extravagant, nor the language in which I have clothed and conveyed them too strong. The subject under consideration was, and is, "My fitness or unfitness to communicate instruction, by lectures, on the Institutes of Medicine, and Medical Jurisprudence." And I repeat my assertion—with that subject the testifying classes (for the reader will remember that there were three of them) were perfectly acquainted, and the Board of Trustees, their informers and advisers, utterly ignorant. The reason of my assertion, to this effect, is obvious and irrefutable.

From my didactic lectures alone could my competency or incompetency to teach be ascer-



tained. And of them, the graduated and testifying classes had, within from two to six years, heard each of them, about one hundred and twenty; while the prosecuting body, Trustees, informers, and advisers, had never, as I verily believe heard even one. Certainly they had heard none of them within the last ten or twelve years. A few of my Introductory, Valedictory, and public lectures on popular subjects they may perhaps have heard; but from them they could learn nothing of my ability or disability as a didactic teacher of medical philosophy.

In relation to Medical Jurisprudence the case is slightly different. On that branch of the subject of my professorship I delivered a brief course of public lectures, in the winter of 1846-'47, a few of which a few of the Trustees heard, and spoke of them in highly favorable terms. Hence I have always believed that that course did much to frustrate the views and defeat the machinations of my enemies at that time. Indeed I am confident it did. And, as already intimated, had the Board of Trustees admitted me to a public trial, in the Spring of 1849, I would have triumphantly defeated my enemies again. And from a confidence of that, the trial was denied, by the members of the Board determined on my removal. For I again repeat, and record the assertion, that had they admitted me to a fair public contest with those opposed to me, they would not have dared to remove me from my chair. And could I procure such a contest now, the issue of it to be, a restoration to my chair, in case of my success, the present incumbent of it would soon be packed off, to resume his trade of snipe and rabbit hunting on his farm in Tennessee. And my lectures would consist, as they have always done, of something else than a mere monotonous recitation of Liebigian physiology, intermixed with geological gleanings, and scraps of rhyme—as many members of Dr. Yandell's class assert his to be.

But I must bring this unpleasant contest to a close. To discuss any farther my ability to lecture as instructively as any other member of the Faculty, in April, 1849, when I was dismissed from my chair, would be not only a waste of words and time, but a measure unworthy of myself—I might even pronounce it degrading to myself.

My ability was abundantly established at the time, by the strongest and most conclusive testimony the world could furnish on the occasion. For the three graduated classes, already mentioned, consisting of two hundred young gentlemen, constituted incomparably the most competent body of witnesses in the pending case that the world contained—in fact they were as competent as they could be rendered by ample knowledge of the subject agitated, sound morals, and unimpeachable veracity. They were not wanting in a single qualification which competent witnesses ought to possess; while, on the opposite side of the question, the condition of things was directly the reverse. Not an individual could be found there, whose knowledge of the subject under consideration was sufficiently extensive and correct to entitle him to testify on it, in the lowest, most unenlightened and most unscrupulous court of injustice in the United States. The reason is obvious. From my didactic lectures alone, as already stated, could my fitness or unfitness for the duties of a public teacher be ascertained. And, not for many years past, if ever, had even one of them been heard by a single member of

the body of men, who were inexorably bent on my removal from the School.

That this was the case with the Board of Trustees then in office, not one of them will deny. Nor was it otherwise with the Faculty of medicine; some of whom (how many I neither know, nor shall trouble myself to inquire) were equally stanch in the plot for my dismissal. Not one of them, as I am thoroughly convinced, had heard a single didactic lecture of mine, any more than I had of *his*, for many years. Except from report, therefore, they knew no more of my ability, as a public teacher, than did the rhymester's silly boy,

"Who trudged along, not knowing what he sought,  
"And whistled, as he went, for want of thought."

It was equally as necessary, therefore, for them to testify from report (if they testified at all) on the question at issue, as it was for the Board of Trustees to adjudicate from report. For, as far as knowledge derived from their own observation was concerned, both bodies were alike ignorant of the state of the case. Hence, it was equally necessary for both to seek information by inquiry—if they were anxious to possess it.

As the Board of Trustees, however, had before them a deed which they had determined to execute and as, in relation to it, they were all-powerful, they, for the attainment of their end, needed no information. Hence they sought for none but pressed forward for the accomplishment of it, by the authority of laws of their own enacting; as the prodaceous animal instinctively does toward its victim, when already in sight—and its escape impossible.

The members of the Faculty, however, who were self-created instruments in the plot for my removal, needed information, or rather, something in its guise, to serve the same purpose. And there were two sources from which they were abundantly dextrous in the collection of it—FABRICATION, in which they were master-workmen,—and a certain class of pupils that is known to exist in every school of medicine.

The first of these sources is unfortunately so common and well known, that to devote even a moment to the explanation of it would be superfluous. But, of the second, a brief analysis may not be amiss.

It consists of those pupils who look, listen, and perhaps read; but who never actually study, and rarely think for themselves. Pupils of this description resort to medical schools, not to attain a knowledge of the science of their profession. For the kind and degree of mental exercise necessary for that attainment they possess neither taste nor talents. Their chief object in repairing to a medical school is, to acquire a smattering of medical terms and technics, and to attain the repute of having attended lectures. Hence they are often jocularly spoken of as the "rank and file pupils, who learn only the manual exercise of their profession."

Young gentlemen of this cast possess a sort of parasitical existence. So dependent and flexible are their minds, that an artful and intriguing Professor may model them to his purposes and draw from them any opinion he pleases, respecting the standing and merit of any one of his colleagues. With youths of this stamp and character, Dr. Yandell is always popular and influential. Nor is there any doubt, that he has induced them, times innumerable, to assure him, that they learnt nothing from my lectures. And the assurance was no doubt true; because, in forming them, the God of nature did not will or de-



sign that they should acquire a knowledge of the philosophy of either medicine, or any other branch of knowledge. No earthly effort therefore could impart it to them.

But I set at defiance Dr. Yandell, and every other man who took part in my persecution and rejection, whether he be Professor, Trustee, or individual otherwise classed, to produce a single pupil, of a high order of mind and attainment, who has listened to my lectures and will not declare that he has derived from them as much gratification and instruction, as from those of any of my colleagues.

But I must bring this hastily written production to a close. And, in doing so, I take, as my premises, the diversified body of matter it contains, and unhesitatingly draw from it the following inferences—without the least apprehension of opposition to them, by fair-minded and intelligent men, whether of my contemporaries or posterity. For, in case I survive until the completion of my "Autobiography and Memoirs of my own Times," posterity shall have a knowledge of the entire subject—both premises and inferences.

1st. My removal from my Professorship is an event unprecedented, for its outrage on right, justice and academical decorum, in the history and legends of schools of medicine.

2d. I am neither a "DOTARD" nor a "SUPERANNUATED IMBECILE" as, years ago, Dr. Yandell had the vulgarity and mendacity to pronounce me. And, in further proof of the truth of this inference, to my preceding matter of argument, I now subjoin, as additional evidence, the present production; which, though hastily written, amidst distracting avocations; and though I set on it an estimate comparatively low; yet do I fearlessly assert, that that noted slanderer, and FLUENT REFRACTOR of his slanders (when called to account for them) can no more equal it in composition; than he can equal the recent successor to his chair, in analytical chemistry.

Is this assertion accounted a boast? I reply that it is not. Because it only alleges that I can surpass in composition a mental parasite and squibster.

3d.—I have satisfactorily shown, that, though unrighteously debarred from much of the profits of my thirty years' labor in the Mississippi valley, yet can nothing earthly rob me of the honor of being the *direct founder* of the medical school, and, through it, the *indirect founder* of the University of Louisville—and the pioneer of medical philosophy in the West.

From the deep and self-damning conduct toward me, of Dr. Yandell and some of his aids, I am justified, if I please, to close my narrative with the following lines:

"Is this, then, the fate, future ages will say,  
"When SOME MEN shall live but in memory's curse;  
"When the truth shall be told, and THESE THINGS OF A  
DAY,

"Be forgotten as FOOLS, or remembered as WISE?"

And the reader may subjoin or neglect at option, the first line of the next verse of the same elegy.

But, be his view of the use I have made of the preceding quotation what it may, I feel convinced that he will concur with me in the correctness and propriety of the following sentiment, which will be the last I shall express on the present occasion.

Considering the amount of services I have rendered and attempted to render to the profession of medicine in the west and elsewhere—that, in the city of Philadelphia, I was the first to deliver clinical lectures on it, in the city Almshouse—that in that place I also lectured on it, scientifically and practically for ten successive winters, to private classes—that, in Kentucky, I have faithfully and laboriously devoted to its highest interests, thirty years of my life—that I have been the founder, and, for many years, the chief supporter of the two most distinguished medical schools that have been established in the Mississippi Valley—that I have contributed to the education of, I know not how many, thousand, and young gentlemen, who are now able and successful practitioners of their profession in the same region, as well as in sundry other places—that, notwithstanding these labors and services, I have been unable, in consequence of losses, and heavy outlays in behalf of the schools I had founded, to accumulate an estate, sufficient by its income to support my family, in the moderate and unostentatious style, in which they have been accustomed to live—that all this was well known to the Board of Trustees, when, by the tyrannical exercise of the authority, for the possession of which they were indebted to myself, they closed against me the doors of one of the schools of my own formation—and that all the indulgence I asked in acknowledgement of what I had done for the profession, was permission to retain my chair for ONE YEAR longer—From these numerous and high considerations, added to the attachment to my person, and veneration for my name and character, which I confidently say, and am proud to say, my thousands of pupils manifest to me—from all these considerations united, had my mind been, in reality, somewhat impaired, by my advancement in years—still does it appear to me impossible for an enlightened, liberal, and high-minded community not to consider me amply entitled to the exceedingly limited favor I solicited—and to be even indignant at a heartless denial of it. Hence am I compelled to believe that, by every one who may read my story, if he be not curtail'd in intellect, or depraved in morals, or, in some way, perverted in both, must my dismissal, *without mental impairment*, or any other form of deficiency or fault, be the more intensely and deservedly condemned and reprobated, as a deed affixing, on the character and conduct of its inexorable perpetrators, a deep, disgraceful, and indelible stain.





